



SECTION 7: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

More than 250 community stakeholders participated in a variety of ways during the 12-month public participation process. Community stakeholders participated through surveys, advisory committee meetings, public meetings, a project website, and one-on-one interviews with stakeholders. The public involvement program for enabled the community stakeholders to receive background and technical information in order to provide meaningful input during the study process. The following section provides insight into the overall process and the specific details regarding the methods used.

Meeting Formats

In all meetings, the format encouraged an informal, open atmosphere. Displays and/or tables were organized around the major topics of discussion, including public input and communications. All tables were geared toward public information and education. There were overviews of the stakeholder surveys and 'brainstorming' exercises with the public just to get their ideas and suggestions for what their initial problems were with the corridor. The appendix contains the actual meeting notices and agendas that were mailed to the community.

Meeting Summaries

To effectively document the outreach effort, the study team prepared a summary of all public involvement information, materials and public comments for each round of public meetings. A facilitation and logistics plan was prepared prior to each public meeting that provides details on the meeting date, time, locations, purpose, format, agenda, layout, supporting materials and staffing. The meeting summaries are included in *Appendix 3: Public Participation*.

Project Website

A key public involvement tool was the project website. The website was used to post public meeting and workshop results, distribute documents, administer the questions and comments from the public (solicit community feedback). A page from the website, which could be accessed at the following address: <http://www.atlantaga.gov/mlk.aspx>.



General Public Meetings

The study included six rounds of meetings for a total of nine public meetings. Two rounds of meetings included multiple meeting dates and locations. Descriptions of each public meeting are in the following paragraphs.

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Kickoff Meeting – October 21, 2004

More than 85 community stakeholders attended the kickoff meeting learned about the purpose, schedule, public participation opportunities, and expected outcomes for study during a presentation. Community stakeholders then participated in facilitator-led small group visioning discussions where they provided input on the current transportation conditions, needs and vision for the community.

The visioning process which consisted of a presentation that included visions for transportation, land use and urban design that emphasize multimodal systems, mixed use development, regional coordination, improving aesthetics and developing a gateway into the corridor.

The facilitated small groups divided the community stakeholders by segment (*Segment 1/Group 1*) *Atlanta University Center/East*, (*Segment 2/Group 2*) *Residential/Central* and (*Segment 3/Group 3*) *Mixed Use/West*. Each group reviewed detailed maps and displays and offered comments on the strengths of MLK Jr. Drive and the critical transportation, land use, economic development and housing needs and problems that need to be addressed along each segment. After both good features and problem areas were identified, a spokesperson from each group summarized the top findings (see the public meeting materials section in the appendix for a copy of the agenda, public notice, worksheets and other material (meeting summary) for this round of meetings).

Community Charette – January 18, 2005

The second meeting served as a community workshop/Charette where the study team facilitated a visioning exercise with the community on January 18, 2005. This visioning exercise was a significant next step in what had been a series of discussions with the community to listen and search for real understanding on what the transportation challenges and potential solutions are for the MLK Jr. Drive Corridor. The goal of the meeting was:

- To provide a foundation for informed decision-making by presenting information on existing and future conditions;
- To propose draft study goals and objectives;
- To review of issues and needs along the corridor that were previously identified by the community; and
- To develop lists of solutions that address four specific planning areas: transportation, land use, urban design, and housing.

More than 50 participants attended the event and were asked to join one of the four breakout groups. Members of the study team facilitated the discussions. Each group was provided a map of the study area, a visual tool kit of potential solutions and improvement options and other resources to aid in the discussion.

Facilitators recorded comments on maps and flip charts and a spokesperson was selected from each group. Following a lengthy discussion, each group presented a summary of recommended

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solutions to all attendees. *Appendix 3: Public Participation* includes the comments and recommendations received from each group for this Charrette.

Workshop Purpose

A. To collaboratively develop solutions (in the form of detailed maps) to elements such as transportation, land use and zoning; urban design and housing options that illustrate a collective vision for the MLK corridor and will facilitate the securing of funding.

B. To organize these solutions into future scenario development by the consultant:

For example:

1. *Transportation Based Scenario*
2. *Urban Design Based Scenario*
3. *Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Scenario*

C. To examine a wide range of planning issues unique to MLK corridor, specifically:

- Demographics (residential and employment growth)
- Land Use
 - Balance of land uses
 - Amount of mixed use infill and redevelopment, particularly at transportation nodes
 - Overall characteristics of development
 - Urban design/aesthetic issues
- Housing (diversity of housing stock)
- Transportation System
 - Congestion
 - Pedestrian Safety and Attractiveness
 - Intersection Efficiency
 - Transit/Multi-modal Connections
 - Traffic Calming
 - Freight Traffic
 - Access Management
 - Bike Lanes/Multi-Use Paths
 - ROW Constraints

Workshop Structure

The workshop included a brief presentation of findings from the existing conditions analyses followed by facilitated, small group discussions to identify solutions to the needs identified in the previous public meeting (October 21, 2004).

Each break out table had a tool kit (elements) of potential solutions (see appendix). The kit included lists (that describe potential treatments or ways to address the various problems), pictures or graphic symbols that the group can use to place on maps, markers and other interactive, hands-on tools to facilitate creative thinking and problem-solving. The break out groups were not confined to address a package of solutions for one particular scenario/alternative, such as enhancements

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and aesthetics. Instead the groups were asked to simply solve whatever problems/needs they see fit in whatever manner they believe best suits the corridor. The study team reviewed and organized the public recommendations into future scenarios following the workshop.

After both good features and problem areas were identified, a spokesperson from each group summarized the top findings. (See the public meeting materials section in the appendix for a copy of the agenda, public notice and other material (meeting summary) for this round of meetings).

Scenario Development Workshops/Meetings – March, 28-30, 2005

For this phase of the study, the study team took a comprehensive approach and considered citizen recommendations along with information from several sources including previous and ongoing studies within the corridor (i.e., H.E. Holmes LCI Study, Historic Westside Village, MARTA West Line Extension, etc.). The study team used that information to develop the following scenarios:

- 1) Pedestrian Accommodation/Traffic Operations Emphasis
- 2) Roadway Emphasis
- 3) Transit Emphasis

The study team also considered many enhancements that apply to the entire corridor such as lighting, gateway designations, open space and parks and trail blazers. Additionally, The study team posted a number of documents on the City's website to keep the community abreast of the study and to assist in preparing for the upcoming meetings.

Due to the nature of the required feedback as well as for the community's convenience, the study team scheduled three meetings at three different locations for each segment along the corridor:

- **MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2005**
AUC East
(Lowery Blvd to Northside Drive)
Phyllis Wheatley YWCA
599 Mitchell Street 30314
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2005**
Mixed-Use West
(Interstate 20/West Lake to FIB)
Adamsville Recreation Center
3201 MLK Drive 30331
- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2005**
Residential Central
(Lowery Blvd to Interstate 20/West Lake)
Washington Park/McPheeter's Library
1116 MLK Drive 30314

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The same material was covered each meeting and the following took place:

- Reviewed the citizen feedback from the January 18th public meeting/Charrette;
- Reviewed and received comments on the proposed scenarios;
- Presented an overview of the City's Zoning process; and
- Provided a progress update on the market analysis.

See the public meeting materials section in the appendix for a copy of the agenda, meeting summary and other material (scenario worksheets) for this round of meetings.

May Public Meetings – May 25-26, 2005

For this round of meetings, the study team wanted to revisit issues/concerns from the March 2005 Public Meetings. In March, the project team met with citizens to seek comments on the transportation improvement scenarios for Pedestrian/Traffic Operations, Roadway, and Transit. The group also discussed the feasibility of many enhancements that apply to the entire MLK corridor such as lighting, gateway designations, open space and parks and trail blazers. An overview of the City of Atlanta's Quality of Life zoning process and progress update on the market analysis were also presented. Now, the purpose was to get feedback from the community on the next important phase of this study, the transportation scenario evaluation. During the meetings, the study team presented information and discussed how well each scenario supports the goals and objectives of the study. As in the other round of meetings, the same information was covered at each meeting.

This round of public meetings consisted of two public meetings representing the segments of the corridor. All meetings were held on a weekday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The study team facilitated each meeting. The meetings took place at the following dates and locations:

- Wednesday, May 25, 2005
Washington Park/McPheeter's Library
1116 MLK Drive 303014
(404) 752-8760
- Thursday, May 26, 2005
Adamsville Recreation Center
3201 MLK Drive 30331
(404) 505-3181

See the public meeting materials section in the appendix for a copy of the agenda, meeting summary and other material (scenario worksheets) for this round of meetings.

Draft Action Plan Presentation – August 18, 2005

For this fifth round of public meetings, the objectives were to:

- Review the citizen feedback from the May 26, 2005 public meeting/Charette;

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- Review the study schedule;
- Review the recommended solutions to the major themes emphasize such as:
 - Reducing congestion
 - Attracting higher end retail and restaurant services
 - Improving pedestrian facilities
 - Enhancing the public transportation system
 - Creating a coordinated theme or brand identity for the corridor and
 - Providing greenspace opportunities and connectivity to existing greenspace;
- Review and seek comments on the proposed scenarios for eight activity nodes along MLK corridor.

The August public meeting was an open house format focusing on the eight activity nodes along MLK corridor:

1. MLK at Fairburn Road
2. MLK at Future MARTA Extension TOD
3. MLK at Lynhurst Drive
4. MLK at Holmes Crossing
5. MLK at H.E. Holmes Drive TOD
6. MLK at Westview Cemetery Redevelopment Node
7. MLK at West Lake Avenue TOD
8. MLK at Lowery Boulevard TOD

The meeting was an open house format with four stations. Two (2) study team members were assigned to the four stations located around the room. At each station maps and displays for two adjacent activity nodes along MLK corridor illustrated the existing conditions and proposed transportation, land use, zoning, and other recommendations. In a brief presentation, study team members outlined the analysis and preliminary recommendations for transportation, land use and zoning for each node. A lengthy discussion period followed the presentation where study team members answered questions, listened to comments and discussed various issues with each participant.

Beginning at 4:45 p.m. (and repeated each hour) the study team members provided highlights of the improvement recommendations for each node. The public was allowed to join the process at any time between 4:30 and 8:00 p.m. to attend only one, several or all of the activity node presentations. See the public meeting materials section in the appendix for a copy of the agenda, meeting summary and other material for this round of public meetings.

Final Presentation – October 25, 2005

For this sixth and final round of public meetings, objective were to

- Review the citizen feedback for the Draft Final Plan;
- Review the remaining study schedule;
- Perform a prioritization activity in which citizens rank, in order of priority, the projects listed on the implementation plan; and



- Review and seek comments on the proposed scenarios for eight activity nodes along MLK corridor for transportation, land use, zoning, and green space.

The October public meeting was an open house format focusing on eight activity nodes along MLK corridor. A study team representative requested each participant to sign in. Each participant was provided with a detailed agenda, a form to comment on the transportation, land use, zoning and green space recommendations for the MLK corridor, and a packet of maps depicting the recommendations of the study for each activity node in the study area.

The two-hour meeting was set up as an open house with four stations, one station for each set of recommendations (i.e. one station for transportation recommendations, one station for land use recommendations, etc.). Planning team members were assigned to four stations located around the room. At each station maps for each set of recommendations illustrated the existing conditions and proposed transportation, land use, zoning, and green space recommendations for all eight activity nodes in the study area. During this informal question and answer session, citizens were also asked to rank, in order of priority, the projects listed in the implementation plan. A presentation was then given that outlined the analysis and final recommendations for each activity node in the study area and the results of the prioritization exercise were given. A lengthy discussion period followed the presentation where study team members answered questions, listened to comments about the projects listed in the implementation plan and discussed various issues with each participant.

The public was allowed to actively participate in the process throughout the meeting. See the public meeting materials section in the appendix for a copy of the agenda, meeting summary and other material for this round of public meetings

Appendix 3: Public Participation includes meeting summaries for each study held for this study.

- Kick-off Meeting – October 21, 2004
- Community Charette – January 18, 2005
- Scenario Development Workshops – March 28, 29 and 30, 2005
- May Public Meetings – May 25 and 26, 2005
- Draft Action Plan Presentation – August 18, 2005
- Final Presentation – October 25, 2005

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List of participants who provided information to the study team on sign in sheets at meetings

Alphonze R. Goggins	Dee Merriam	Jack Halpern	M.M. Bryant	Robert Gray
Antonia Thompson	Denise Jackson	James Curtis	Mahir Aleem	Roberta Curtis
Alvin Yarborough	Detter Willingham	James Houston	Marcus Bryant	Roger Zachary
Amaryllis Grogan	Donna Carter	James Lloyd	Margaret Latimore	Rogers McCrary
Amber Moore	Douglass Showers	James Stembridge	Maria Mickens	Ruban James
Andrew W. Fellers	Dr. Grogan	Jana Campbell	Marie Woods	Ruby Taylor
B. Bouchard	Ed Martin	Jay Bailey	Marilyn Sewell	Sandra Blackwell
B. Clonts	Elizabeth Hutchinson	Jean Gray	Mario Mickens	Sara Jordan
Beatrice Thompson	Ellis Styles	Jerry Riley	Markeda Johnson	Saundi Wilson
Bennie Caldwell	Eugene Smith	Jerry T. Brown	Mary Ball	Savonna F. Bailey
Betty Echols	Evelyn Pates	Jesse Grady	Mary Seay	Silvia Lovelace
Betty Hill	Fannie Malone-Nash	Jessie J. Stroud	Mary Smith	Steve Littles
Beverly Parks	Fanning Cumbellharder	Jonathan Wilkins	Melinda Marshall	Sule Carpenter
Bruce Morton	Fred Walker	Johnnie Jewell	Melvin Reid	Sylvia E. Lovelace
Byron Amos	Freddie Hill	Joseph Williams	Michael Fleming	Thomas Frazier
C. Yancey	G. Dexter Evans	Joyce Hammock	Michelle Smith	Thomas Branch
C.M. Moron	George Ballard	Juanita Gardner	Mitch Alexander	Thomas Frazier
C.S. Salahuddin	George Sharpe	Juanita H. Gardner	Mrs. Ballard	Thomas Perry
C.T. Martin	Geraldine Perry	June Mundy	Mrs. Ellis Styles	Tillman Ward
Cal King	Glenn James	Karen Adams Anderson	Murman Brown	Tim Maddox
Carol Frazier	Gloria Buchanan	Kenneth Moore	Naomi Little	Todd Tillman
Cathy Richards	Gloria Elder	Kraig L. Jennings	Natalie McCants	Tommy Branch
Chancer McLaughlin	Goldie C. Johnson	Laree Dean	Neil R. Morris	Tracy Minter
Charles Little	Greg Alexander	Larry Lindsey	P. Strobe	Tshaka Warren
Charlie Davis	Greg Duperow	Larry Lovett	Patricia Roberts	V.W. Jenkins
Charlotte J. White	Gwen Clark	Leoa Johnson	Paul Roberts	Vanessa Cox
Chris Armstrong	Gwendolyn Mathis	Leon A. Johnson	Pauline Newman	Vera James
Chuck Jennings	H. Jean Gray	Leona Freeman	Pete Haley	Vernetta Lamar
Chysandra Ruland	Harold Morton	Lillian Rance	Phillip R. Perry	Virginia Ellis
Clarice Bell Church	Henry Farm	Linda Hall	Quinton Thorpe	Walter Elder
Cleta Winslow	Henry Mitchell	Lorena Wilson	R.R. Harris	Walter Fowler
Cordell Carter	Irene Alexander	Lottie Watkins	Regina Moore	Wayne Crowder
Crystal Edmondson	Ivory Young	Louis Jackson	Regina Price	William Hall
Darnetta Nichols	J. Earley	Louversia Wiggins	Renee Blackwell	William Long
Darnella Jones	J. Johnson	Lovita Whitfield	Rev. W.J. Webb	Winston Wells
David Cantrell	J.D. Cantrell	Lucy Lovett	Richard Hood	Yvette Cooper
David Trichio	J.L. Melton	M. Houston-Willis		